

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 261716Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3972

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T LONDON 11620

E. O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MILI, PLOS, UR, NO

SUBJECT: SOVIET MISSILE FIRINGS IN BARENTS SEA

REF: OSLO 3282

L. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY.  
TEXT OF BRITISH EVALUATION OF SOVIET MISSILE FIRING  
TO THE BARENTS SEA FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS HAS  
ANNOUNCED THAT AN AREA IN THE BARENTS SEA WILL BE USED  
FOR MISSILE FIRINGS BETWEEN 1 JULY AND 10 AUGUST 1976.  
THE DANGER ZONE IS A CIRCULAR AREA OF 80 NAUTICAL MILES  
DIAMETER, APPROXIMATELY 300 MILES NORTH OF MURMANSK AND  
CENTERED ON 73°N 35°E.

3. THIS ZONE WAS USED FOR A SIMILAR PURPOSE BETWEEN  
16 AND 27 SEPTEMBER 1975, WHEN FOUR SS-7 INTERCONTINENTAL  
BALLISTIC MISSILES WERE FIRED INTO IT FROM THE  
OPERATIONAL COMPLEX AT OLOVYANNAYA IN THE SOVIET FAR EAST  
IT MAY BE THAT FURTHER FIRINGS FROM OLOVYANNAYA ARE  
CONTEMPLATED, BUT LAUNCHES OF OTHER MISSILE TYPES,

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SEA OR LAND BASED, FROM OTHER LOCATIONS CANNOT BE RULED

OUT.

4. BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1975, FIRINGS FROM OLOVYANNAYA HAD BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS NOVAYA ZEMLYA (THE NORMAL IMPACT AREA ON KAMCHATKA CANNOT BE USED FROM THIS COMPLEX WITHOUT OVERFLYING CHINA. THE REASON FOR THE CHOICE OF THE BARENTS SEA IN SEPTEMBER 1975 MAY HAVE BEEN TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TEST PREPARATIONS THEN UNDER WAY IN NOVAYA ZEMLYA. THE SAME REASON MAY APPLY THIS YEAR.

5. THE DANGER ZONE LIES IN A GENERAL AREA WHICH IS THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE FIRINGS IN SEPTEMBER 1975 WERE THEREFORE REGARDED BY THE NORWEGIANS AS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, WITH THE INTENTION OF UNDERLINING SOVIET STRENGTH IN THE AREA. THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED ITS SURPRISE AND CONCERN TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE RUSSIANS REPLIED EXPRESSING UNDERSTANDING OF THIS CONCERN, BUT HAVE NEVERTHELESS REPEATED THEIR ACTION, SHORTLY AFTER ANOTHER SESSION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, IN JUNE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE NORWEGIANS WILL AGAIN PROTEST. END TEXT.

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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